



## **Step Six: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.**

“Am I ready, willing and able to have all of my defects of character removed?” “Of course, I am, what fool wants to keep those things that are blocking the individual from a better life”. Oh, wait a minute, it says ‘all’ my defects of character. I want to be a better person, but some of my failings are fun, and everybody knows that my shortcomings don’t hurt anybody else. How is that for rationale? It is obvious how your defects affect others, but not mine.

Taking away all my character defects will change me too much. Are we back to that Step Three, where I give all my life/will to God as I understand Him. Now I really will end up in South America, wrapping bandages for the poor, or standing on a corner handing out religious literature. This is too much to ask.

And then the sponsor reminds me that half measures availed us nothing, and was I still really willing to go to any lengths. Even pausing over the answers to those questions, would reveal that my old life was a sham – and I did harm others – in spite of my protesting to the contrary. Family, co-workers, fellow employees were all affected by my inability to return their caring. But I was blinded by my ego.

The end result is that I have to be willing to be ‘entirely’ ready to have God remove these defects. God will not strike me white as the clean driven snow – He will assist me in changing my life to be a better son, husband, father, brother, etc. It will require time and positive actions on my part, but the results will be a better me – not a better them. And as Bill W. states in the Twelve and Twelve, this Step Six will “separate the men from the boys”.

Tom McM., Osseo Big Book

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### **From the A.A. Grapevine, September, 1970.**

“I opened my copy of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and read the Step all the way through. Although I had read it many times before, it seemed as if I saw its meaning for the first time. I gathered that, instead of fighting mightily against a defect, I had to let go of it. Just simply open up my hands, my heart, and my mind and say to my Higher Power, ‘Here it is, this defect. I give it to you. Please remove it from me.’ In this case, it was the bitter and destructive resentment that I wished to be rid of. And so it happened. It faded away and never returned.”

F.C., Manhattan, N.Y., reprinted with the permission of the *A.A. Grapevine, Inc.*

**Please Join Us for Our Annual**

## **ST. PAUL INTERGROUP OPEN HOUSE!!**

**Saturday, June 25th, Spruce Tree Centre, 1600 University Ave.  
Barbecue and more at the top of the parking ramp!!**

**St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®**

Web Site: [www.aastpaul.org](http://www.aastpaul.org)

E-mail: [lifeline@aastpaul.org](mailto:lifeline@aastpaul.org)

Fax: 651-290-0209

Office Hours: Monday through Friday — 9 AM to 6 PM; Saturday 9 AM to 1 PM

1600 University Avenue W. Suite 214 St. Paul MN 55104

**TRADITION SIX: An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.**

If ever a Tradition spoke to the group rather than the individual, this is the one where it would be easy to say, "see, these Traditions apply only to the business end of A.A." However, after spending years attending meetings all over the States and the World, it is important that each individual understand the Tradition core.

All the Traditions were hewed from our early mistakes. This one came about because some of the early pioneers in New York (mainly our co founder, Bill W.) wanted to open A.A. hospitals/treatment centers. We would have been lending our A.A. name to facilities that should of necessity be outside A.A.

Thank goodness for the minority voices in the groups! There are no chains of hospitals/treatment centers, and we own no property, so there is no need to argue over fiscal issues. Many new members are confused by Alano clubs. Those certainly have an A.A. flavor, but they are not owned by A.A. Good, solid, members of A.A. did band together and form a corporation, outside of the group, to buy and then lease space to meetings. It is important that the groups only pay rent, not be compelled to give their entire intake to the club. The groups are allowed to pay rent to meet at the Alano club — or move to other quarters. We cooperate with outside facilities that request our assistance, always remembering that we follow their rules when in their institution. Therefore each group or squad should have their own treasurer, so that monies get distributed not only for rent, but also to the various other A.A. entities (i.e., District, Area, Intergroup, the General Service Office).

As an aside to this, I must remember that in my family I am but one vote, so I have no right to lend the family name to what others in the family might not consider proper.

Tom McM., Osseo Big Book

**CONCEPT SIX: On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.**

Such a long Concept, therefore it is most important to be familiar with the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board. The beginning of running A.A. starts with the shareholders, individual A.A. groups. It would be impossible for all the groups in the US & Canada to get to one location to discuss the operations, therefore, we select those people called Delegates to represent us at the annual meetings. These Delegates are proxy-holders, who then select directors – that would be the General Service Board Trustees – who do operate the business. The Trustees actually own and control our two subsidiaries, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine. Those two organizations carry on all the services of our fellowship, under the lead of the Trustees.

The result of all of this is that our Trustees must be given powers to manage the daily affairs of A.A. through the staff at the General Service Office. The Trustees are responsible for millions of dollars in cash flow on an annual basis. They guide public information, are guardians of our Twelve Traditions and take on the guidance of the A.A. message to other countries. We, as individual members of our groups, therefore, must be cognizant of the powers we entrust to these servant leaders, and vote with an informed conscience rather than just vote. With that caution in mind, we can then trust the Trusted.

Tom McM., Osseo Big Book

**2011 Steering Board**

|                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b><u>Chair:</u></b>                 | <b>John D.</b>                 |
| <b><u>Alt. Chair:</u></b>            | <b>Denise A.</b>               |
| <b><u>Secretary:</u></b>             | <b>Don N.</b>                  |
| <b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>             | <b>Darrell B.</b>              |
| <b><u>Alt. Treasurer</u></b>         | <b>Cedar H.</b>                |
| <b><u>Members at Large 2012:</u></b> | <b>Chris S. &amp; Wanda B.</b> |
| <b><u>Members at Large 2011:</u></b> | <b>Jes N. &amp; Charlie S.</b> |
| <b><u>Advisor to the Board:</u></b>  | <b>Julie M.</b>                |
| <b><u>Office Manager:</u></b>        | <b>Tom N.</b>                  |

**Office Calls in April\***

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Meeting information    | 148          |
| Inventory/hours        | 23           |
| 12th Step calls        | 19           |
| Temporary sponsor      | 15           |
| Speaker request        | 29           |
| Special events         | 2            |
| Outside issues         | 35           |
| Info for professionals | 0            |
| Administrative         | 119          |
| Other                  | 63           |
| <b>Total Calls</b>     | <b>453</b>   |
| <b>Daily average</b>   | <b>12.57</b> |
| Visitors               | 249          |

*\*Call tally is for calls taken during office hours only and does not include calls taken during Night Owl shifts.\**

## **St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, April 19 , 2011**

- I. Opened with the Serenity Prayer and Introductions. Cedar presented Intergroup's Primary Purpose.
- II. Last month's Minutes approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report: Darrell B. discussed his written report which reflects a healthy budget. Questions can be sent to [treasurer@aastpaul.org](mailto:treasurer@aastpaul.org).
- IV. The Office Report: Service opportunities available; feedback encouraged regarding the new electronic technology available to help people get and stay sober. The Office will relocate to Suite 214 in the Spruce Tree Center effective May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- V. The Website Report: Groups are encouraged to contact Jonathan ([webservant@aastpaul.org](mailto:webservant@aastpaul.org)) or the Office for AA-related events which can be added to the website. Guidelines are available on the site.
- VI. Outreach Program: Contact Roxi (chairperson) or the Office if interested in this important service opportunity.
- VII. Night Owl Report: Contact Leslie (coordinator) or the Office for current openings.
- VIII. Upcoming Intergroup events:
  - TGIS – April 30<sup>th</sup> @ Recovery Church – Jes & Wanda Co-Chairs
  - Intergroup Open House – June 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 11AM-3PM – Chris, Chair
  - Ice Cream Social – August 6<sup>th</sup> – Wanda, Chair
- IX. Old Business:
  - 2011 Budget – This will be discussed further next month.
- X. New Business:
  - Intergroup may share a hospitality room with the Downtown Alano Club at the Gopher State Roundup.
- XI. District 8 Liaison Report: Doug M.
- XII. Grapevine Report: Rhonda Volunteer for May: Scott
- XIII. Concept Review (Concept IV): Charlie Volunteer for May: Tom S.
- XIV. Mock Report: Sue Volunteer for May: Roxi
- XV: Close with Responsibility Statement.

### Attendance:

|                                    |                                   |                                     |  |                                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Terrie,<br>Back to Basics          | Rhonda,<br>Basic Text             | Sue, Como Park<br>Big Book          | Matt, Defogged<br>Men's Group              | Rebecca, Fireside<br>Women's Big Book |
| John, Happy, Joy-<br>ous & Free    | Doug, Hole in the<br>Donut        | Harry,<br>Main Idea                 | Adrienne, Maple-<br>wood Alano             | Beth,<br>Midway Club                  |
| Ryan,<br>MNYPA                     | Jenni, New Brigh-<br>ton Big Book | Matt, Outright<br>Mental Defectives | Chuck, Rosemount<br>Groups                 | Tom,<br>Senior Recovery               |
| Toni, Stillwater<br>Morning Groups | Ryan, Students of<br>Life         | Christine,<br>The FiringLine        | Scott, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition<br>Big Book | Roxi,<br>West End Group               |
| Jeff, Downtown<br>Alano Club       | John, Highland BB<br>Sunday Night | Judy, No Time<br>Like the Present   | Scott, Northwestern<br>Alano Sq 1          | John,<br>Board Chair                  |
| Denise,<br>Alt Chair               | Darrell,<br>Treasurer             | Cedar,<br>Alt Treasurer             | Don,<br>Secretary                          | Tom,<br>Office manager                |
| Chris,<br>Member@large             | Jes,<br>Member@large              | Wanda,<br>Member@large              | Charlie,<br>Member@large                   | Julie,<br>Board Advisor               |

**7th Tradition  
Suggestions for Groups**

“Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

The Conference-approved pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” offers the following suggestions for the distribution of group funds after group expenses have been paid:

**50% St. Paul Intergroup**  
Spruce Tree Center  
1600 University Ave. #214  
St. Paul, MN 55104

**30% General Service Office**  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

**10% Southern MN Area 36**  
Area Assembly  
P.O. Box 2812  
Mpls., MN 55402

**10% District Committee**  
Ramsey County:  
District 8, P.O. Box 2267  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
  
Dakota County:  
District 19, P.O. Box 1466  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
  
Washington County:  
District 15, P.O. Box 181  
Lake Elmo, MN 55042  
  
SE Ramsey County:  
District 26, P.O. Box 75980  
St. Paul, MN 55175

**APRIL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Number of Group Contributors: 58  
Total Group Contributions: \$5447  
Number of Faithful Fivers: 13  
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$482



**District Meetings**

**District 8 (Ramsey Co.)**  
Fairview Community Center  
1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203, Roseville  
3rd Wed., 7:30 PM

**District 15 (Wash. Co.)**  
Christ Lutheran Church  
11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo  
4th Mon., 7:00 PM

**District 19 (Dakota Co.)**  
Rosemount Community Center  
13885 South Robert Trail  
2nd Wed., 7:00 PM

**District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.)**  
1099 Payne Ave. St. Paul  
2nd Fri., 6:00 PM  
www.district26-area36.org

**Thanks to all the super  
volunteers who helped in the  
Office during April!**

Mark, Frank, Gabe, Mike, Anthony, Tom, Gabriella, Cynthia, Rick, Violet, Bart, Carla, Jack, Shane, John, Erik, Rich, Robin, Henry, Britney, Bill, Tyler, Kayla, Andy, Will, Greg, Barb, Jeanette, Kate, Phil, Teddie, Sara, Yuri, Alex, and Matt.

*Thanks to all the  
Night Owl  
volunteers and  
groups as well!*



**Thanks to the groups that  
contributed in April!!**

- Amazing Grace Group
- Amigos III
- Apple Valley Monday AM Women's Mtg.
- Apple Valley Monday BB
- Baffled Lot - Lake Elmo
- Basic Text
- Basic Text Women's Group
- Blue House Group
- Cerinity Group Thursday 10AM
- City Center Group
- Como Park 12 & 12
- Complete Defeat Group
- Dakota AA Sat. AM
- Dakota Alano Friday 6 PM
- Dakota Alano Sun. 8 PM
- Dakota Alano Wed AM Roosters
- Defogged Men's Group
- Downtown Alano Club
- Eagan Burnsville Savage Groups
- Fireside Women's BB Group
- Forest Lake Alano
- Friday 12x12 By the Book
- The Grind
- Happy Hour 12 & 12
- Happy Joyous and Free
- Highland Park Groups
- Hole in the Donut Group
- Hudson Primary Purpose
- Hugo Group
- Jumpstart 12 & 12
- Lake Elmo Thurs Night Group
- Live and Let Live
- Living Sober
- Mahtomedi Tuesday Step
- Maplewood Groups
- Midway Club
- New Brighton Alano
- New Brighton Alano Sq 14 BB
- New Brighton Big Book
- North Dale Group
- Pages of Wisdom BB
- Ridge Runners III Sun 830AM
- Roseville Wed Night
- Shoreview 12 x 12
- Shoreview Big Book Plus
- South Suburban Groups
- St. Lucas Group
- St. Paul Park Group
- St. Stephen's Tuesday Group
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- Summit Hill
- This Simple Program
- Twelve Steppers - Arlington Hills
- White Bear Lake
- White Bear Lake Redeemer
- White Bear Wed AM Women's

**The Lifeline: Purpose Statement**

The Lifeline is the monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup Association office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by, and for members of the A.A. Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or Intergroup. (Exception: Quotations from A.A. books or pamphlets are reprinted with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.) We welcome articles of opinion or descriptions of personal experience, which should be sent to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue #407, St. Paul MN 55104. Materials or articles cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Intergroup reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, language, length and content that might violate A.A.'s Traditions, etc. The deadline is the 13th of the preceding month (i.e., submit a Tenth Step essay by the ninth month, September).

# UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

## Camel Club Reunion

Saturday, June 11th  
 Speaker Meeting, raffle, pot luck!!  
 Richard Walton Park  
 1584 Haley Ave, Oakdale

## Twin Cities GLBT Roundup

June 10—12  
 Doubletree Park Place  
 Minneapolis  
[www.twincitiesroundup.com](http://www.twincitiesroundup.com)

## Minneapolis Intergroup Service Workshop

### AA Information Talks

Saturday, June 18, 6pm  
 Mizpah United Church  
 412 5th Ave N, Hopkins, MN

11th Annual

## Midwest Motorcycle A.A. Convention

June 24—26th  
 Pearl City, IL  
[www.MMAAC.org](http://www.MMAAC.org)

## Southern Minnesota Area 36

### Area Assembly

July 9th, 9am to 5pm  
 St. John's Lutheran Church  
 Northfield, MN

## West Central Regional Forum

with the A.A. General Service Board  
 September 9th to 11th  
 Clarion Hotel & Conference Center  
 Davenport, Iowa

## Dear Bill W.,

I understand that I ought to forgive my family and friends — the people I care about; but what about the junior high bully, that creepy uncle, the genocidal dictator or the hit-and-run driver who killed my friend?

— An Anonymous Drunk

“Resentment is the ‘number one’ offender. It destroys more alcoholics than anything else. From it stems all forms of spiritual disease, for we have been not only mentally and physically ill, we have been spiritually sick. When the spiritual malady is overcome, we straighten out mentally and physically.”

From *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 64, reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc.



“This is a special brand we’ve blended for the man of no consequence”

June, 1958, reprinted by permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

## Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

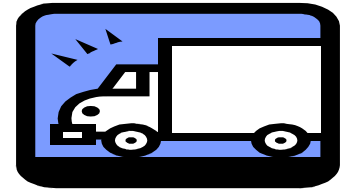
The June Representatives’ meeting will be held Tuesday the 21st at 7:30 pm, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 436 Roy St. N, St. Paul, 55104. The church is just south of the Spruce Tree Centre, across the street from the Intergroup office.

St. Paul Intergroup  
Spruce Tree Center  
1600 University Ave. W. Ste. 214  
St. Paul, MN 55104

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Please let us know if your address changes one month ahead of time. It saves us the cost of return postage and enables you to get each issue of *The Lifeline*. Our mailing permit does not provide for mail forwarding. Thank you!



## St. Paul Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form

Faithful Fivers contribute \$5.00 to St. Paul Intergroup each month to enable us to continue to carry our life-saving message. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to *The Lifeline*. You may also contribute annually, quarterly, etc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form and a check to:**

St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue W., Ste. 214, St. Paul, MN 55104

I would like to receive *The Lifeline* every month by email, not postal mail. My email address is:

(please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_